



Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency

Serving Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford and Trumbull • Operating Agency for Greater Bridgeport/Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization

March 11, 2009

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill No. 1093
Transportation Committee

Dear Senator Donald DeFronzo, Co Chairman and Representative Tony Guerrero, Co Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for Senate Bill No. 1093, an act providing funds for municipal matching grants for demand-responsive transportation for elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

The Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency has been actively working with the Greater Bridgeport Transit and member municipalities of the Greater Bridgeport planning region in providing demand responsive transportation for the region's most vulnerable populations. For last two years, state grant funds have been provided to the municipal providers so that they can expand and enhance their services and specifically address the transportation needs of those who have no other option. These persons are basically shut-in and have very limited opportunities to travel outside of their homes. The Municipal Grant Program funds provided the necessary leverage to allow the municipalities to offer this service. In the Greater Bridgeport planning region, the City of Bridgeport, and the towns of Stratford and Fairfield have jointly worked together to make the program more efficient and cost effective. These services are being relied upon by the elderly and disabled residents of these communities. It is critical to restore these funds to at least the level indicated in the proposed bill, if not to past levels.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment and offer my support to this bill

Respectively Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark C. Nielsen', is written over a horizontal line.

Mark C. Nielsen
Executive Director
Greater Bridgeport Regional Planning Agency